

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 08074 231500Z

ACTION NEA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1756

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR SOPN IN US

SUBJECT: AMRITA BAZAR ARTICLE ON ALLEGED CIA DEVICE IN ANDAMANS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI FROM CALCUTTA MAY 23 REPEATED

TO YOU:

QUOTE

CALCUTTA 0848

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINR, SOPN, IN, US

SUBJECT: AMRITA BAZAR ARTICLE ON ALLEGED CIA DEVICE IN ADAMANS

REF: NEW DELHI 7,:63.#7926

THE FOLLOWING ARTILCE APPEARED, BEGINNING ON PAGE ONE
IN AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA OF TUESDAY, MAY 23 ALSO APPEARED IN
BENGALO SISTER PAPER JAGANTAR.

BEGIN TEXT: CIA DEVISE PLANTING IN ANDAMAN ISLANDS-
FROM OUR STAFF CORRESPONDENT, NEW DELHI, MAY 22:
THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) OF THE UNITED
STATES PLANTED A NUMBER OF "SOPHISTICATED SPYING DEVICES"
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IN THE ISLANDS OF ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR DURING 1963-65
TO SPY ON THE MOVEMENT OF SHIPS AND SUBMARINES IN THE
INDIAN OCEAN. THE DEVICES WERE PLANTED IN KOLHOA,
TRINKET AND LITTLE NICOBAR ISLANDS. SPYING DEVICES
WERE ALSO CONEALD IN THE FLOATING BUOYS ON THE SEA.
THIS INFORMATION ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CIA
HAVE COME TO THE NOTICE OF PRIME MINISTER, MR. MORARJI DESAI,

WHEN THE SPECIAL TEAM OF OFFICERS AND EXPERTS WHO HAVE BEEN TRUSTED WITH THE JOB OF GOING THROUGH ALL PREVIOUS RECORDS, CAME ACROSS THE FILE ON THE SUBJECT. APPARENTLY, THE SPYING DEVICES WERE PLANTED WITH THE FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE THEN PRIME MINISTER, MR. JAWAHARLAL NEHRU. THE TEAM OF EXPERTS WAS ASKED TO GO THROUGH ALL THE RECORDS FOLLOWING EXPOSURE THAT THE CIA HAD PLANTED A PLUTONIUM DEVICE AT NDND DEV TO DETECT CHINA'S PROGRESS IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD. THE TEAM HAS ALSO COME ACROSS SOME "STARTLING FACTS," BUT FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, THE MEMBERS OF THE TEAM ARE RELUCTANT TO DISCLOSE THE CONTENTS. A HIGHLY PLACED SOURCE IN THE GOVERNMENT, TOLD THE PATRIKA THAT HE HAD THE OCCASION TO GO THROUGH THE FILE WHICH CONTAINS THE INFORMATION THAT THE CIA ACTIVITIES WERE NOT ONLY RESTRICTED TO THE HIMALAYAS, BUT ALSO SPREAD TO THE INDIAN OCEAN. MY SOURCE COULD NOT SAY THE REASON BEHIND PLANTING OF THE SPYING DEVICES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE INFERENCES IS THAT THE DEVICES WERE PLANTED TO DETECT AND SPY THE MOVEMENTS OF SOVIET NAVAL SHIPS AND SUBMARINES.

UNUSUAL-IN THE PAST INDIAN SHIPS HAVE BEEN PICKING UP "UNUSUAL SIGNALS" ORIGINATING FROM THE COASTAL AREAS OF THE ISLANDS, BUT EXCEPT FOR ONCE, NOT MUCH IMPORTANCE WAS GIVEN. IN SEPTEMBER 1974, AN UNCLASSIFIED

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INDIAN NAVAL SHIP, WHICH WAS PASSING THROUGH THE ISLANDS DETECTED THE SIGNALS AND THE SHIPS CAPTAIN REPORTED THE MATTER TO HIS SUPERIOR. IN TURN THE SUPERIOR REPORTED THE MATTER TO THE DEFENCE MINISTRY, BUT FOR REASONS UNKNOWN, NO ACTION WAS TAKEN. THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THE DEVICES, BUT PROBABLY SHE DID NOT LIKE THE IDEA OF DIGGING INTO THE MATTER FUTHER. AFTER GOING THROUGH THE RECORDS, PRIME MINISTER DESAI HAS ORDERED THE INDIAN NAVY TO DETECT THE DEVICES. MR. DESAI HAD A DETAILED TALK WITH THE DEFENSE MINISTER, MR. JAGJIVAN RAM, BEFORE THE LATTER LEFT FOR MOSCOW TODAY. FUTHER DETAILS ARE NOT AVAILABLE. MEANWHILE, THE DEFENSE MINISTRY HAS ASKED THE INDIAN AR FORCE TO KEEP A STRONG VIGIL ON ALL THE EXPEDITIONS BEING CARRIED OUT BY SOME EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN THE KASHMIR HIMALAYAS. RECENTLY AN EXPEDITION OF AN EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRY LEFT FOR NUNKUM PEAK. PROBABLY THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT LIKE TO KEEP THINGS FOR CHANCE AND AS SUCH, STRICT AIR SURVEILLANCE IS BEING MAINTAINED ON THE MOVEMENTS OF THE EXPEDITIONS. MEANWHILE AFTER THREE

DAYS OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE STARTLING NEWS
THAT THE UNITED STATES SPY PLANES OPERATED IN INDIA
BETWEEN 1963-65, THERE HAS BEEN NO DENIAL BY EITHER
THE INDIAN OR U.S. GOVERNMENTS. THE REPORT HAD
SAID THAT THE THEN INDIAN GOVERNMENT ACTIVELY HELPED
THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN CARRYING OUT SPYING WITH THE
HELP OF U2 SPY PLANES ON THE CHINESE MISSLES
ACTIVITIES. END TEXT.

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GOHEEN

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.
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